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COMMERCIAL LICENSE CHANGES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why does the handout say a Limited Crab Catcher (LCC) is \$100, but my License renewal form says I have a Limited Crab Harvester? Is it the same thing? Does a "Catcher" authorization need a Harvester Registration?

Yes, a Limited Crab Harvester License is the same as a Limited Crab Catcher authorization. They mean the same thing. Yes, a person with a Limited Crab Catcher has to buy a Harvester's Registration. The only authorizations that do not require the purchase of a Harvester's Registration are a fishing guide (FGR or FGN), master guide, seafood dealer, landing license, or bait harvester's permit.

2. Why is my Limited Crab Catcher (50 pots) \$100, and someone with a Crab Harvester- 600 pots only paying \$100?

The 600 or 900 pot Crab Catcher authorizations are in addition to a Crab Harvester- 300 pots authorization or Unlimited Tidal Fish License. A 600 or 900 pot authorization cannot be purchased on their own or without the base 300 pots authorization or Unlimited Tidal Fish License. These cost \$150 or \$300 respectively, and then the 600 or 900 pot Crab Catcher authorizations are an additional \$100 or \$150 respectively.

3. What is a Bait Harvester's permit?

The law requires a person to have a commercial license in order to sell fish, crabs or oysters harvested from the tidal waters of the State – even species used as fishing bait. Because commercial fishing licenses are under limited entry it would be difficult for a person to get a license just for bait. An exemption was provided in law in 2004 for certain bait species as regulated by the Department and for the establishment of a Bait Harvester's permit. This permit is for people that are not already licensed by the Department for the commercial harvest of fish (or crabs for Mole Crabs as bait). The following nine species are the only species of finfish that may be caught and sold for use as fishing bait by an individual with a Bait Harvester permit: Mummichog; Striped Killifish; Banded Killifish; Spottail Shiner; Golden Shiner; Rough Silverside; Silverside; Anchovy and Silvery Minnow. The Department will be adding Mole Crabs to the list in late 2013.

4. Can I harvest Summer Flounder with a finfish license or do I need this Summer Flounder permit?

You can catch flounder with a finfish authorization – but how much depends on if you have the flounder permit. As stated in Maryland regulation, an individual licensed to catch fish for commercial purposes may not catch, possess, or land more than:

- (a) 100 pounds of Summer Flounder per day from the Atlantic Ocean, its coastal bays, and their tributaries unless in possession of a Maryland Summer Flounder landing permit; and
- (b) 50 pounds of Summer Flounder per day from the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries.

5. Can I buy a Summer Flounder permit or do I have to get on a waitlist?

Black Sea Bass, Summer Flounder, and Horseshoe Crab permits are limited entry. This means there are a fixed number of permits allowable. No, there is not a waitlist for these permits. In order to receive a permit, you have to receive a transfer of a permit from someone in the fishery. Yellow Perch, Bait

Harvesters, and Snapping Turtle permits are not limited entry and are not transferable. You may buy a Yellow Perch or Snapping Turtle permit if you have the proper fish license.

6. What is the Tidal Fish Dealer for TFL Holder? Why would I need it?

If you are always going to sell your catch to a dealer then you do not need a dealer's license. If you sell your catch to neighbors, restaurants, stores, or any place that is not licensed as a dealer by the Department then you must also purchase a Dealer's license for yourself. It is provided at a discount to anyone that has a tidal fish license or authorization (fish, crabs, oysters, turtles, lobsters, conch). The cost is \$50. Note - as a licensed dealer you will also be required to fill out monthly dealer reports.

7. Which Seafood Marketing fee do I pay? My renewal says there is a \$100 fee.

Seafood Marketing Surcharge (\$20) applies to a person that is only a commercial harvester (fish, crabs, oysters, turtles, lobsters, conch) or fishing guide. If a person has both a dealer's license and a harvester's license, the dealer marketing fee (\$50) is charged but not both marketing fees. The renewal form provides for you to only pay the \$20 marketing fee OR to buy the discounted dealers license (see question #6) and dealer marketing surcharge together. The total of license and surcharge is \$100.

8. If I buy the seafood marketing surcharge for a harvester only (\$20) at the time of renewal – can I later decide to buy the discounted dealer's license?

Yes, but the seafood marketing surcharge for a dealer is \$50. So you will pay \$50 for the discounted dealer's license. We will credit your \$20 marketing surcharge to your \$50 dealer marketing surcharge (balance \$30). So the total then would be \$80 – not \$100.

9. If I am temporarily transferring my license to another person that is not a waterman, does he have to buy a Harvester's Registration in order to receive the license?

Yes, Harvester's Registrations are not transferable and are required in order to hold a commercial fishing license (does not include fishing guide (FGR or FGN), master guide, seafood dealer, landing license, or bait harvester's registration). However, if you transfer your 2012-2013 license, the person receiving the license will not need a Harvesters Registration. That license is only valid through August 31 and the Harvester's Registration was not designed to apply to the 2012-2013 license year.

10. Is the buyback program still available?

No, the buyback program ended this past winter. The federal funds to conduct this program have been exhausted.

11. I received a letter stating that I can pick up my license from the apprenticeship program – what do I owe?

At the time of application, you paid a license fee. The first year of your license is grandfathered in at that fee (even if it has since gone up). What you do owe depends ~~at~~ on when you pick it up. If you pick up your license during the 2012-2013 license year you will NOT have to pay the new \$215 Harvester's Registration fee. You will pay a \$20 Seafood Marketing Surcharge. However, that license will expire August 31st, and then you will have to renew it and pay the new \$215 Harvester's Registration fee, \$20 Seafood Marketing Surcharge, and the license fee. The benefit is that you can fish or crab now. If you wait to get the 2013-2014 license, at the time you pick it up you will pay the new \$215 Harvester's Registration fee, \$20 Seafood Marketing Surcharge, but not the license fee (grandfathered first year).

Commercial License Designee – Rules Clarification

12. Can my license designee harvest my crab limit and also harvest his crab limit under his own license at the same time?

No. An individual may only operate under one license at a time. If the designee is on board the vessel with another licensee, then two female harvest limits can be caught.

13. How many pots can my designee use?

The designee alone on the boat may only use the maximum amount of pots under one license that they are operating at that time.